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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

*Memorandum*



THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CRISIS

Information as of 1300  
10 AUGUST 1964

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION  
CONTAINED HEREIN IS NOT AUTHORIZED

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SC No. 10120/64

10 August 1964

C O N T E N T S

I. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- A. North Vietnamese Military Activity
- B. Chinese Communist Military Activity
- C. Soviet Military Activity
- D. US Activity

II. OTHER COMMUNIST REACTIONS

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

MEMORANDUM: The North Vietnamese Situation

I. CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 1300, 10 AUGUST 1964

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A. North Vietnamese Military Activity

1.

[REDACTED]

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Hanoi may have received additional boats to replace damaged units.

2.

[REDACTED]

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3. Virtually no information is available on the status of the North Vietnamese Army.

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[REDACTED]

4. According to a Canadian liaison official, who received a report from ICC members, the atmosphere in Hanoi and Vinh was remarkably calm following the 5 August air strikes. The ICC team was allowed to resume daily controls of the jetty and airfield in Vinh by 8 August. (The ICC team has never been allowed to go near the Vinh oil dump.)

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5. The pilot of a US high-altitude reconnaissance flight over North Vietnam on 9 August reported sighting a cluster of three missile-like objects apparently directed against his aircraft. The nearest object passed within a quarter of a mile.

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6.

B. Chinese Communist Military Activity

1. There is still no firm evidence that Chinese ground forces have deployed into North Vietnam. The 6 August report concerning the presence of Chinese soldiers on a train in the Hanoi railway station is still unconfirmed.

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2.

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4. No further aircraft deployments have been noted since the 7 August move of fighters into North Vietnam.

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a deployment of fighters from Chuchou, in east China, to Nanning in South China, may be imminent

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If this occurs, it will be the first actual augmentation of Chinese air strength in the South.

5. A review of aerial photography of 7 August by NPIC reveals that 36 jet fighters have deployed from Mengtzu to Hanoi's new airfield at Phuc Yen. NPIC reports that many of the aircraft are camouflaged. If all of these aircraft came from Mengtzu, they are probably MIG-17s.

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6.

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7.

8. Press reports that Chinese fighters from Hainan Island have been engaged in aggressive over water patrolling appear to be distorted accounts based on incomplete information.

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9. A Hong Kong press report that the Chinese Communists began impressing huge numbers of youth into the armed forces three weeks before the Vietnam crisis appears to be a distortion. It probably refers to the establishment, announced by the

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Chinese Communists in June and July, of large numbers of military summer training camps, where unemployed city youths reportedly are being taught marksmanship, grenade throwing, sentry duties and even parachute jumping.

C. Soviet Military Activity

1. No significant Soviet military reaction to the crisis has been reported during the past 24 hours.

D. US Activity

The DESOTO patrol will not be resumed on 12 August, as previously proposed by CINCPAC.

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## II. OTHER COMMUNIST REACTIONS

A. Peiping's propaganda line suggests that the Chinese may be preparing justification for a public admission of military aid which Peiping has already secretly supplied to North Vietnam. A People's Daily editorial on 9 August underscored the argument--first presented in the Chinese Government statement of 6 August--that because the US has launched "armed aggression" against North Vietnam all countries which uphold the Geneva agreements now have the "right" to assist the DRV. The editorial declares that aid in "every possible form" is justified. Also on 9 August, a central committee member speaking at a rally in Peiping warned that China was "determined by practical deeds to volunteer aid."

B. Peiping may also be planning new political maneuvers to generate international pressures on Washington. A special flight apparently carrying VIP passengers left Peiping for Djakarta via Rangoon on 9 August. This flight may be connected with high-level Chinese participation in Indonesian independence day celebrations on 17 August. North Korean leader Kim Il-sung and Cambodian Chief of state Sihanouk are scheduled to attend, and Peiping could be expected to exploit the occasion by promoting expressions of support for North Vietnam from Asian neutrals.

C. The North Vietnamese have not yet specifically rejected an invitation to appear before the UN to discuss the current crisis, but in a Foreign Ministry statement on 9 August, Hanoi flatly denied the right of the UN Security Council to consider the situation. The statement insisted that only the two Geneva Co-chairmen and the other signers of the 1954 Geneva agreements have "full competence" to examine the facts.

D. Hanoi also on 9 August issued charges of new violations of North Vietnamese air space by US aircraft. In a message to the ICC, the Vietnam Peoples' Army representative alleged that from 0740 to 0940 two US reconnaissance planes overflew North Vietnam. He claimed this showed that the US has

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"not yet given up its plot for provocation and sabotage against the DRV."

E. Two North Vietnamese officials touring East Germany have requested immediate military aid--an unlikely prospect.

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